and on each occasion (having forgotten to deliver it to him) I brought it back again. This was because I had no convenient place in London to leave it in. But *now* I have found such a place. Mr. Dubourg has Mndly taken charge of it—so that it is now much nearer to its future owner than it has been for seven years, I quite hope, in the course of another year or two, to be able to remember to bring it to your house : or perhaps Mr. Dubourg may be calling even sooner than that and take it with him. You will wonder why I ask you to tell him instead of writing myself. The obvious reason is that you will be able, from sympathy, to put my delay in the most favourable light—to make him see that, as hasty puddings are not the best of puddings so hasty judgments are not the best of judgments, and that he ought to be content to wait even another seven years for his picture, and to sit ' like patience on a monument, smiling at grief.' This quotation, by the way, is altogether a misprint. Let me explain it to you. The passage originally stood, * *They* sit like patients on the Monument, smiling at Greenwich.' In the next edition ' Greenwich' was printed short, ' Green[11],' and so got gradually altered into 'grief.' The allusion of course is to the celebrated Dr. Jenner, who used to send all his patients to sit on the top of the Monument (near London Bridge) to inhale fresh air, promising them that, when they were well enough, they should go to ' Greenwich Fair.' So of course they always looked out towards Greenwich, and sat smiling to think of the treat in store for them. A play was written on the subject of their inhaling the fresh air, and was for some time attributed to him (Shakespeare), but it is certainly not hi his style. It was called ' The Wandering Air,' and was lately revived at the Queen's Theatre. The custom of sitting on the Monument was given up when Dr.

Jenner went mad, and insisted on it that the air was worse up there and that the *lower* you went the *more -airy* it became. Hence he always called those little yards, below the pavement, outside the kitchen windows, ' *the kitchen airier,'* a name that is still in use.

'* All this information you are most welcome to use, the next time you are in want of something to talk about. You may